**Family Reunion, 1865**

I grew up in a big family. There were nine first cousins, and that’s just on my mother’s side. My mother’s mother, Granny Francis, had us all over for Sunday dinner once a month when the weather was fair enough to travel. She loved it: all four of her children and their spouses, and the grandchildren running around underfoot.

None of us could have predicted how the Civil War would pull us apart. You see, Granny lived in Fulton, Kentucky, right on the Tennessee border. Two of her children, my Aunt Harriet and Uncle William, lived with their families on farms nearby. Mama and Uncle Benjamin had both moved down to Tennessee when they married. After Tennessee joined the Confederacy in 1861, well, as far as we were concerned, we lived in a different country.

At first, we went on having Sunday dinners. I can still see it in my mind: Papa and Uncle Ben in their gray Confederate uniforms sitting across from Uncle Jed and Uncle William in their blue Union gear saying, polite as can be, “Could I trouble you to pass the peas?”

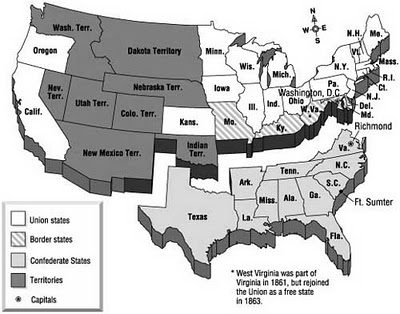
When the men went off to their regiments, Granny tried to keep the women and children coming for dinner. At the last get-together, my cousin George, Uncle William’s oldest, got into a tiff with my brother Sam over a game. George called Sam “Grayback!” and Sam shouted, “Bluebelly!” Before you knew it, the mothers were in on the commotion, and there was a lot of stamping and doors slamming. Granny looked so sad as we left. She knew that we wouldn’t be coming back.

The fact is, those dinners couldn’t have gone on much longer. The two sides were so worried about spies and the shipment of supplies that a close watch was kept on the border between North and South. That border ran pretty much through our yard.

We all knew without saying that it was Granny’s nightmare that any of her loved ones should meet on the battlefield. And it did happen. Papa and Uncle William were both at Shiloh in April 1862. Each knew that the other’s regiment was there, and—loyal soldiers though they were—both were mightily relieved when they got word sometime after that the other was unhurt.

But we did not come through the troubles untouched. Uncle Ben was wounded at Gettysburg. Uncle Jed died at Nashville in December 1864. We all grieved for him, Confederate and Union alike. His widow, Aunt Harriet, and her two girls came to live with us on our farm.

What a hullabaloo the day of our first Sunday dinner together, six months after the end of the war. There were tears and hugs all around, and enough food to feed us all twice over. Granny was just so pleased to see Papa and William shake hands, and all the little “Graybacks” and “Bluebellies” running underfoot like old times. Even us one-time secessionists could see it was better for the family—for the country—to stick together.



1. What is the family’s main problem?
2. Family members fought on different sides during the war.
3. The children were fighting too much during family dinners.
4. Family members were worried about spies stealing supplies.
5. The weather was never good enough to travel to family dinners.
6. What happens when Uncle Jed dies at Nashville in December 1864?
7. Granny stops making dinners.
8. The family decides to stick together.
9. Papa and Uncle William meet at Shiloh.
10. Both sides of the family grieve together.
11. The setting is important to the main problem because it explains why
12. Granny loves cooking dinner for her large family.
13. Mama and Uncle Benjamin move to a farm in Tennessee.
14. families living in different states may have to battle each other.
15. Granny continues making family dinners at her home in Kentucky.
16. The family came back together for a reunion when
17. the war had been over for six months.
18. Granny had a nightmare about her children.
19. Aunt Harriet and her two girls moved to a farm.
20. brothers had to fight each other on the battlefield.
21. The Sunday family dinners were important because they
22. gave Granny an excuse to cook for the family every week.
23. provided the family an opportunity to come together often.
24. allowed the women and children to work out their disagreements.
25. force the brothers to choose which side they will fight for during the war.
26. Which sentence from the passage best explains the main idea?
27. She knew that we wouldn’t be coming back.
28. That border ran pretty much through our yard.
29. There were nine first cousins, and that’s just on my mother’s side.
30. None of us could have predicted how the Civil War would pull us apart.
31. Read the sentence from the article.

**Before you knew it, the mothers were in on the commotion, and there was a lot of stamping and doors slamming.**

What does the word *commotion* mean in the sentences above?

1. fast talking
2. noisy activity
3. secret discussion
4. confusing directions
5. What is the most likely reason the author wrote the passage “Family Reunion, 1865”?
6. to explain famous locations of Civil War battle
7. to describe a large family that enjoys spending time together
8. to express how families and countries are stronger when they to stick together
9. to give suggestions on how families who are arguing can work out their problems
10. The author includes the map to
11. show how the division of the states divided the family.
12. demonstrate that the North had more states than the South.
13. prove that Papa and Uncle William would have to fight each other.
14. identify where the battles of Shiloh and Gettysburg were each fought.
15. What caused the family dinners to stop during the war?
16. Uncle Ben was wounded at Gettysburg.
17. Granny was tired of trying to keep the family together.
18. Uncle Jed and Uncle William would not share their food.
19. The states where the family lived were being closely watched.

Answer Key

1. Correct Answer A, DOK 2
2. Correct Answer D, DOK 1
3. Correct Answer C, DOK 3
4. Correct Answer A, DOK 1
5. Correct Answer B, DOK 3
6. Correct Answer D, DOK 3
7. Correct Answer B, DOK 1
8. Correct Answer C, DOK 3
9. Correct Answer A, DOK 1
10. Correct Answer D, DOK 2